(c) As on 27-10-88, 1029 LTTE detenues are lodged in rehabilitation-cum-detention centres.

Ultimatum by kittu, Commander of LTTE

736. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kittu, former Jaffna Commander of LTTE, when he was under detention in Madras Central Jail, gave an ultimatum to Government to start fast unto death from the 10th October, 1988;

(b) what were the specific demands placed by Kittu to Government; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands were contained in Kittu's letter to Prime Minister dated October 3, the full text of which was published in 'The Hindu'. The text is attached. (See below)

(c) 157 LTTE detenues, including Kittu, were transported to Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on the 9th October, as requested by them. Kittu and seven others were relased from IPKF custody there on the 12th October,

S. KIDDU
Q II CENTRAL JAIL,
MADRAS.
03.10.1988

To,

Honourable Thiru Rajiv Gandhi,
The Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

FAST UNTO DEATH-IN PROTEST AGAINST UNJUSTIFIABLE DETENTION

Sir,

It is a matter of regret that the talks that we had with the representatives of the Government of India collapsed before an agreement could be reached.

I handed over a letter to your representativts by the end of July in which I had clearly expressed that provided an agreement was reached we were ready to surrender our arms and also our willingness to participate in the elections to be held in the North and East.

In that letter I had also stated that our stand was to support the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement if it fulfils tht aspirations of the Tamil speaking people to our homeland.

I made a request to you to declare ceasefire in a particular area anywhere in the North and East for 5 days to enable us to meet and to know from Mr. V. Prabakaran, our leader, his views on what we had discussed during the talks.

But unfortunately our requests were rejected and the talks that were going on between the representatives of the government of India and us were stopped. In the mean-time to our surprise we were arrested and sent to the jail under the security act.

It is I who participated in the talks on behalf of our organisation and I should say that because of my arrest it has now become rather difficult to continue the talks any further. The 10 day ceasefire announcement by the I.P.K.F. had not resulted in any settlement.

Our leader Mr. V. Prabakaran announced during this period of ceasefire that the Government of India should release us from the prison immediately and renew the talks without delay. It is regretable indeed that you brought the ceasefire to an end without paying any heed to his words.

We are not the enemies of peace. What we want is permanent peace. Our comrade Johny was taken by the Government of India to Sri Lanka to assist you to bring back peace, but what happened? He was killed by the I.P.K.F.

My comrades and I were arrested and are now kept in prison for no rhyme or reason. False allegations are made against us.

Have we ever acted on any occasion against the intergrity or the security of India? or have we taken part in any anti-social activity in this country?

Whenever some anti-social elements who had been kicked out by the Tamils of North and East of Sri Lanka and who are now in Tamil Nadu involve themselves in anti-social activities here, it is always the Tigers who face the accusation. But statements issued recently by responsible police officers have proved that the Tigers never have had any involvement in crime in this country.

The Government of India knows well that we the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—have been living here fod the past 5 years with the help of the government and its people. Our comrades who had been injured during their war against the Sri Lankan Army are undergoing treatment in India. I too was brought to Madras for treatment by Indian Air Force helicopter.

Indian Army Officers went to Sri Lanka on two occasions to take over the Indian army men released by the Tigers. Every time they went they took our comrades also along with them from Madras and had brought them back after their mission was over.

We had never been asked by the Government of India to close our office or to leave this country Since the war between the I.P.K.F. and the Tigers started in October, 1987 we had been kept under house detention and were not allowed to go anywhere.

In this situation I feel it is against justice and the very principle of democracy to keep us under the security act in prison. It is nothing but an attempt by the government of India to harm our organisation and to insult our struggle.

This being our plight I would like to place the following demands before you and start fasting unto death in this land of Ahimsa without even drinking any liquid food including water if these demands are rejected.

1 If we had committed any criminal offences in India we should be brought to trial and punished if the charges are proved.

2. If not we should be released immediately and handed over to our comrades in Tamil Eelam.

If I do not get a favourable reply from you before 9 A. M. on 10.10.1988 I will start my fasting in the central jail Madras on the same day and at the same time.

If I happen to die my comrades in the prison will continue the non-violent struggle after me.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,
Sd|-
(S. KIDDU)
CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
LIBERATION TIGERS
OF TAMIL EELAM.

Benefit of F.R. 22-C to Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers

737. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA.
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers holding selection grade in Kendriya Vidyalayas are eligible to get benefits of F.R. 22-C when they are promoted to next higher scale|grade;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the justification therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan while fixing salary, denies this benefit to the selection grade teachers who are promoted to the next higher grade; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) As per Government orders dated 12-8-1987 and 3-11-1987, for promotion of teachers from ordinary scale to senior scale (i.e. old selection grade) and from senior scale to selection scale the benefit of F.R. 22-C is not allowed. However, in case of